

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PDIP, EAID, LI, US

SUBJ: USDEL CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT

REF: A) MONROVIA A001, JANUARY 16, 1976 B) STATE 10059

1. MONROVIA A-001 (TO BE POUCHED JANUARY 16) TRANSMITS FULL TEXT OF MEMORANDUM OF JANUARY 6 CONVERSATION BETWEEN USDEL TO INAUGURATION AND PRESIDENT TOLBERT. FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT POINTS OF CONVERSATION:

2. PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER AND GIFT: DR. SPAULDING THANKED PRESIDENT FOR HIS KIND REMARKS OF WELCOME AND WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED DELEGATION. DR.SPAULDING PRESENTED PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO PRES. TOLBERT AND CONVEYED TO HIM PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REGARDS. DR. SPAULDING ALSO PRESENTED GIFT FROM AMERICAN PEOPLE ON OCCASION OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S INAUGURATION. PRESIDENT TOLBERT EXPRESSED HIS THANKS.

3. US-LIBERIAN RELATIONS: DR. SPAULDING ACKNOWLEDGED SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA, AND TOLD PRESIDENT TOLBERT THAT UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE SENSITIVE TO LIBERIA'S NEEDS. ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES, DR. SPAULDING EXPRESSED CONTINUED INTEREST IN LIBERIA, ITS PEOPLE AND PROGRESS AND IN MAINTAINING EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR LIBERIA'S COOPERATION IWHT
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THE UNITED STATES IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND NOTED THAT WE

APPRECIATE LIBERIA'S UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF U.S.
INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

4. U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA: DR. SPAULDING RECALLED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SEPTEMBER MEETING IN NEW YORK WITH FON-MINISTER DENNIS AND STATED THAT, AS A RESULT OF AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER'S TRIP TO MONROVIA IN NOVEMBER, PRESIDENT FORD HAD AUTHORIZED DELEGATION TO SIGN, ON BEHALF OF U.S., A 1.9 MILLION DOLLAR AGREEMENT DESIGNED TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR ALL LIBERIAN CITIZENS. THIS FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO EXTENSION OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS NOW BEING DEVELOPED IN LOFA COUNTY TO SEVEN OTHER RURAL COUNTIES. DR. SPAULDING NOTED THAT TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM BOTH SIDES ARE WORKING ON DETAILS FOR SIGNING SUCH AN AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT IF THESE DETAILS COULD NOT BE WORKED OUT IN TIME FOR THE DELEGATION TO SIGN AGREEMENT, CHARGE BEAN WOULD STAND READY TO DO SO. MR. BEAN ADDED THAT A TEAM OF EDUCATORS WILL ARRIVE IN LIBERIA IN JANUARY TO FOLLOW UP ON VISIT BY AID-SPONSORED TEAM FROM HARVARD INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING A VIABLE PROJECT WHICH COMES AS A RESULT OF TEAM'S EFFORTS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT WHEN FINAL ENGINEERING DESIGN AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE COMPLETED FOR MONROVIA-KONIA AND BUCHANAN-RIVER CESS ROADS, WE EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FINANCING FOR THESE PROJECTS.

5. PRESIDENT TOLBERT RESPONDED THAT IT IS HEARTENING TO KNOW THAT FRIENDS CARE. HE NOTED THAT LIBERIA NEEDS MUCH. LIBERIA HAS LOTS OF RESOURCES, MINERAL RESOURCES, MATERIAL RESOURCES, HUMAN RESOURCES. BUT COUNTRY'S MATERIAL RESOURCES ARE NOT DEVELOPED, PRIMARILY BECAUSE ITS HUMAN RESOURCES ARE NOT ADEQUATELY DEVELOPED. PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE REALIZES THAT LIBERIANS MUST RELY ON THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY CAN EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ANYONE ELSE: "WE MUST DO FOR OURSELVES WHAT WE CAN DO." PRESIDENT TOLBERT THOUGHT THAT, WITH SAME INTERESTS AND SYSTEMS, OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD HELP ONE ANOTHER. FOR IN HELPING FRIENDS WE HELP OURSELVES AND BY NOT HELPING OUR FRIENDS WE WEAKENING OURSELVES. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA IS PREPARED TO GIVE U.S. EVERY LEGITIMATE HELP THAT IT CAN. HE SAID LIBERIA IS IN NEED OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EXECUTION OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
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TO HELP PEOPLE IN DISPERSED RURAL AREAS. PARTICULAR NEEDS ARE IN FIELDS OF HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL TRANSPORTATION. FOR THIS REASON HE WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE INDICATIONS FOR FUTURE ASSISTANCE JUST GIVEN HIM BY U.S. DELEGATION.
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